

ELFUN Society, to give them a grant of \$3,000 to do something about the clock. They ordered parts and then spent almost a year figuring out how to make the complicated mechanism work. In the Archives of the Museum of History are complete descriptions of what they did, including a request of the manufacturer to correct a defect. Of course, following detailed instructions, which didn't exist, did not suit either Bill or Don and—as only engineers would do—they diagrammed circuitry and mechanical workings and eventually got it running. I even found one diagram, completely unintelligible to me, which was not needed.

Greg Koos, then executive director of the Museum, was quoted in the Pantagraph as saying:

“They are a couple of guys who really understand how things work and are able, by looking at a piece of equipment, to understand what its function is.”

But, just getting the clock working was not enough. In 2001, the dynamic duo of Bill and Don set off to make the bells work so



A view of the clock from inside the dome of the McLean County Museum of History (photo credit: Clay Jackson, The Pantagraph, published July 16, 2022).

that they could toll hourly. This feature had been omitted since the 1930's in part because out of town guests at the downtown hotels complained that they were kept awake by them. While the bells certainly work, it seems that sensibilities have been respected and they seldom ring. Since the bells work, it is doubtful whether either Bill or Don would object.

I am honored to have called each of these men, “friend”, though I never knew of the close association between them. Now, whenever I am downtown Bloomington,

I look up at the dome and remember my friends who have passed on but left their hometown a better place.

One last word. The clock actually has four faces. When last observed each was telling the time. Unfortunately, each face showed a different time. I guess it is hard to understand (Bill and Don, no doubt, would have) but none of the four displayed the correct time.

We need more good men like Bill and Don. ★

Bill was born August 6, 1925 and passed away on January 11, 2021 at the age of 95 years. He joined the SAR on October 6, 1998—his ancestor was Henry Enoch II.



Bill was a WW II Navy Veteran and was an Emeritus Member of the GJB SAR Chapter when he became 90 years of age with 10 years of active service in

2015. Bill gave several programs for the GJB SAR Chapter as well as serving in leadership roles over the years.

Bill and Martha lived on Sunset Road before selling their home (now owned by Past Illinois State University President and First Lady Larry and Marlene Dietz) when they moved to Westminster Village.

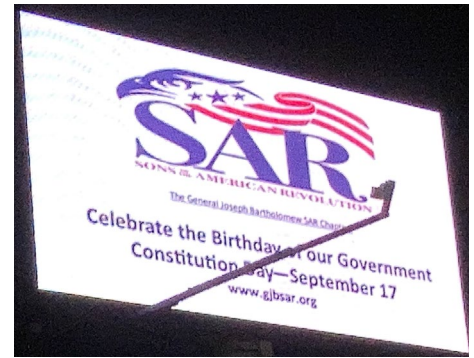
A Sign of Things to Come

Submitted by Steve Kern

This year, as a joint project with the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, an advertisement was purchased on an electronic billboard to honor Constitution Week. The particular electronic billboard was at the Dairy Queen on

Veterans Parkway in Bloomington across from State Farm Insurance Corporate Headquarters. The ad was on the north side of the two-sided billboard.

The ad agency indicated their surveys show that on average, 40,000 vehicles pass this billboard on a daily basis. Our ad ran once for ten seconds every five minutes on a 24/7 basis from September 9-17. The DAR ad for Constitution Week ran on the electronic bulletin board across from the DoubleTree Hotel



on Veterans. We hope you got a chance to see the ad. By the way, I was told by the ad agency this is the largest Dairy Queen in the United States!" ★

General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter Constitution Day Meeting: September 9, 2022

Submitted by Steve Kern

The General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held its annual Constitution Day meeting on September 9, 2022, 1:00pm at the Grace Church Activity Center in Normal, Illinois. The meeting commemorated the adoption and signing of the U.S. Constitution, as well as an expression of gratitude to our public servants from the five counties the GJB SAR Chapter covers. Certificates and commendation medals in law enforcement, fire safety, heroism, and lifesaving were awarded to 13 public service individuals.

There were 67 attendees, including members of the GJB SAR Chapter; recipients of awards, their families, and departments; interested individuals; Illinois State Senator Sally Turner; keynote speaker Illinois State

Senator Jason Barickman and guests. Attendees were provided with a program, which included an insert with the nominations for those public service personnel to receive certificates and commendation medals.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, the SAR Pledge and invocation led by Chapter members. This was followed by GJB SAR Chapter President J. Gordon Bidner, who welcomed guests and expressed the communities' appreciation for the care, protection, and dedication by our public servants and how they are necessary for a safe and orderly functioning society.

President Bidner introduced keynote speaker Jason Barickman, whose presentation was entitled



Keynote speaker Illinois State Senator Jason Barickman

A Critical Assessment of the U.S. Constitution.

Thirteen certificates and commendation medals were presented by Steve Kern, Chairman of the Public Service and Heroism Committee. The honorees were as follows:

CONSTITUTION continued on next page

Law Enforcement

Captain Marc Wright, Woodford County Sheriff's Office

Trooper Andrew Krusz, Illinois State Police District #8

Sergeant John Fermon, Bloomington Police Department

Officer Hector Melchor, Bloomington Police Department

Fire Safety

Firefighter Eric Davison, Bloomington Fire Department

Heroism

Captain Matt Bozarth, Bloomington Fire Department

Engineer Eric Purchis, Bloomington Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic J.R. Fulcher, Bloomington Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron Ehrhart, Bloomington Fire Department

Life Saving

Deputy Elizabeth Blair, Woodford County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Darren Donald, Woodford County Sheriff's Office

Engineer David Hall, Bloomington Fire Department

Certificate of Distinguished Service

Retired Police Chief Rick Bleichner, Town of Normal Police Department

The meeting closed with comments from President Bidner and the SAR Recessional. Refreshments were provided for the attendees. ★



Left to right: GJB SAR President Gordon Bidner and Public Service and Heroism Committee Chair Steve Kern with Captain Marc Wright, Trooper Andrew Krusz, Sergeant John Fermon, Officer Hector Melchor, Deputy Elizabeth Blair, Engineer David Hall, Town of Normal Police Chief Rick Bleichner (Ret.), Deputy Darren Donald, Firefighter/

Paramedic Eric Davison, Firefighter/Paramedic J.R. Fulcher, Engineer Eric Purchis, Captain Matt Bozarth, Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron Ehrhart, and Illinois State Senator Jason Barickman.

General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter Meeting: October 6, 2022

Submitted by J. Gordon Bidner

We held this meeting at The Ozark House in Bloomington at 6:00 p.m. Seven members and four wives were in attendance—members Ray Owens, Dan Leifel, Bob Harshbarger, Steve Kern, Lance McCormick, Sonny Rudsinski and Gordon Bidner; and the ladies (Susan Kern, Sharon McCormick, Louise Bowen and Sandi Bidner). The meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.

The menu included fried chicken, jumbo shrimp, catfish, ribs or rib eye steak—good food and fellowship.

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance led by Dan Leifel.
2. SAR Pledge led by Sonny Rudsinski.
3. Invocation was led by Ray Owens, remembering Harry Hoit.
4. Treasurer's report by Lance McCormick. Our checking account balance is \$1,459.18, and he detailed the various expenditures and transfers from the Investment account. **Motion to approve the report by Ray Owens, seconded by Sonny Rudsinski—motion passed.** We also gave Lance the approval to switch from Quick Books to any accounting platform that will record income and expenses for the record. Lance also reported on the State Farm Grant of \$500 he received

from Steve Kern's Volunteer work. Thanks Steve.

Steve Kern reported on our Investment account. As any 401K holder will understand the stock market has not been in a bullish mode of late. However, Steve indicated that the last ten years to date we have received a 11.33% return. On October 3, 2022, Steve sent a report to the GJB SAR Finance Committee, so if you wish for more detail, please ask Steve Kern. **Motion to approve the Investment report by Lance McCormick, seconded by Ray Owens—motion passed.**

5. Veterans Day scheduled for November 10 at noon at the Ozark House. Dan Leifel will introduce our keynote speaker, Retired Army Major David Zabinski. His presentation is entitled "Who Are the Veterans We Honor?" **Reservations will be required, and the GJB SAR Chapter will pay for all Veterans' meals.** We are looking at two choices—more information will follow. **Motion by Ray Owens, seconded by Lance McCormick—motion passed.**
6. Citizenship—McLean and Woodford Counties information was sent to the 20 high schools on September 30. The Citizenship/Scholarship Luncheon will be held at The Bloomington Country Club

on April 6, 2023 with ISU President Dr. Terri Goss Kinzy as the keynote speaker. The 25th Citizenship program is scheduled for April 4, 2024. On October 2, I sent an email to the high schools that had scholarship recipients from 2000-2011, asking them to help identify who might serve as our keynote speaker.

7. The Iroquois County program will be held on December 9 at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Milford, IL. This included seven high schools.
8. Considerable discussion on recruiting and SAR membership. Fox Valley SAR has had considerable success in this area and presently has 120 members with a goal of 200 by 2026. Ted Miller, Fox Valley President, shared with me and Steve his Power Point, as well as the leaflet they use. Steve is looking into ideas in developing a new one for the GJB SAR Chapter but wants input from the GJB SAR Public Relations Committee first.
9. Steve Kern also commented on The Constitution Week program held on September 9. It was well attended with good publicity from *The Pantagraph* and *The Normalite*.
10. The NSSAR Great Lakes District and ILSSAR BOM's meeting in Springfield October 28-29. Ray Owens, Steve Kern and I will attend.

OCTOBER continued on page 7

Harry E. Hoit— Patriot, Husband, Father, Grandfather and Seedsman

J. Gordon Bidner, Pres, GJB SAR Chapter

Dan Leifel, is working on a comprehensive article on Harry for the January issue of *The General's News*. So the following is but an article to recognize Harry and to tell you that 'more is coming soon'.



Harry E. Hoit was born on June 28, 1921, and he recently passed away on August 26, 2022 at the age of 101 years. He is survived by Lois, his wife of 79 years, their four children and their several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I first met Harry when we both worked at the Funk Bros. Seed Company. Harry was in the Foundation seed area for 27 years while I worked in the commercial seed production area. Our paths often crossed, and I found him to be a knowledgeable and dedicated seedsman. Then, when I joined the SAR our paths crossed again.

Harry joined the SAR on February 4, 1981 and served in many leadership roles in the GJB SAR Chapter as well as being in the Color Guard. He had two ancestors that served in the Revolutionary War, John Hoit who was born in Dorchester, England

and Elisha Beall of Frederick, Maryland. Harry carried that service forward when he enlisted in the Navy on August 7, 1942 and was Honorably Discharged on November 5, 1945.

Harry did several programs titled "Mending the Flag" that I'm sure Dan Leifel will explore in more detail. In 2010, the GJB SAR published a book for our 35th Anniversary, and Harry wrote about his ancestors, as well as his life and career. The last sentence of his article reads as follows:

"Thinking back over our life reminds me of a quote from author Tony Blankley. He said 'Life must be lived forward but can only be understood backward. So too is history.'"

Rest in Peace, my Friend. Harry was a humble man with a strong faith and a Servant's Heart who Loved our Country. ★

2022 Remaining Programs/Events

Oct. 28-29 • NSSAR Great Lakes District Meeting (in Conjunction with the ILSSAR BOM Meeting)—
Springfield Wyndham Hotel, Springfield

Nov. 10, 12:00 p.m. • Veteran's Day—The Ozark House, Bloomington

SPEAKER: Ret. Army Major David Zabinski, "Who Are the Veterans We Honor?" Elect and Install GJB SAR Leadership Team for 2023.

HOSTS: David Edwards, Daniel Leifel

*"If ever the time should come,
when vain & aspiring men shall
possess the highest seats in
government, our country will
stand in need of its experienced
patriots to prevent its ruin."*



SAMUEL
ADAMS

11. 2023 Officer Slate to be elected and installed on November 10. **Motion by Lance McCormick and seconded by Ray Owens—motion adopted.**

President: J. Gordon Bidner

Vice President/Historian: Jay L. Cummins (will serve as President in 2024 and 2025)

Secretary: **NEED A VOLUNTEER**

Registrar: David J. Dougall

Assistant Registrar: Robert Harshbarger

Genealogist: William M. Hammitt

Treasurer/Assistant Historian: L. Lance McCormick

Chaplain/Sergeant-at-Arms: Raymond P. Owens

Chaplain Emeritus: Dr. Virgil D. Short

Editor, The General's News: J. Gordon Bidner

2023 Members at Large:

- Milton 'Sonny' Rudsinski
- Alan C. Washburn
- William A. White

Committee Chairs same as 2022 except for:

- Color Guard: Milton Rudsinski
- Veterans/ROTC Affairs: Milton Rudsinski

Bill Hammitt has requested to be replaced as the GJB SAR Certificate maker and keeper of SAR supplies and medals due to health issues—**NEED A VOLUNTEER!**

12. The speaker was Dan Leifel, replacing original speaker Rob Jones. Dan talked about the military organization in 'Private to Captain', as well as the challenges that accompany that process. Rob's program on his ancestor Derick Amerman will be rescheduled in 2023.

13. Recessional by Robert Harshbarger

There was a lot of good discussion about programs along with concerns about membership and meeting attendance as we look toward 2023. When we have fewer than 20 in attendance, The Ozark House charges us \$50 for the meeting room, which is fair in my book. ★

2022 Committees

CITIZENSHIP: Chair Gordon Bidner—Robert Flesher, Bill Hammitt, Rob Jones, Dan Leifel, Phares O'Daffer, Dr. Virgil Short, Bill White (Iroquois/Livingston Co.)

COLOR GUARD/PARADE: Chair Al Abbott—Don Hyland, Stephen Kern, Don Lush, Rodney Lush, Milton Rudsinski, Dr. Virgil Short

EAGLE SCOUT: Chair Stephen Kern—Al Abbott, Lance McCormick, Bill White

EDUCATION: Chair Dan Leifel—Charles Erickson, Dr. Virgil Short, Alan Washburn

FINANCE: Chair Stephen Kern—Charles Erickson, Bill Hammitt, Lance McCormick, Lee Wilder

FLAG DAY: Chair Stephen Kern—Albert Day, Ed Proctor

PUBLIC SERVICE & HEROISM: Chair Stephen Kern—David Dougall, Bill Hammitt, Ray Owens, Dr. Virgil Short

MEMBERSHIP/MENTORING: Chair Gordon Bidner—Jay Cummins, David Dougall, Bob Harshbarger, Rob Jones, Lance McCormick, Ray Owens, Steve Runyan

PATRIOT GRAVES: Chairs Jay Cummins—Gordon Bidner, Albert Day, Roger Hollis, Dan Leifel, Milton Rudsinski, Bill White

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chair Gordon Bidner—Charles Erickson, Bob Harshbarger (Zoom coordinator), Ray Owens, Dr. Virgil Short

THE GENERAL'S NEWS: Editor Charles Erickson, Editorial Board—Gordon Bidner, Jay Cummins, Dan Leifel, Dr. Virgil Short

VETERANS/ROTC AFFAIRS: Chair Dave Edwards, Vice Chair Dan Leifel—Albert Day, Jeff Kretlow, Bud Lewis, Rodney Lush, Milton Rudsinski, Dr. Virgil Short, Bill White

ILSSAR POSTER/KNIGHT ESSAY/RUMBAUGH ORATIONS/SCHWEIZER HISTORY: Chair Gordon Bidner—Charles Erickson, Rob Jones, Dr. Virgil Short

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Chair Bob Harshbarger—Jay Cummins, David Dougall, Charles Erickson, Stephen Kern (GJB Webmaster)

NOMINATING AND PROGRAM LEADERSHIP:

2022 Leadership Team/Board of Managers

The chapter is using the "Duties and Responsibilities of Officers and Committees" prepared by member Steve Kern to make sure everyone is engaged.